

SECRET

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : For the Record

FROM : Chief, FDD

SUBJECT: "Treasure Island" Project

DATE: 9 February 1951

1. Col. Dale D. Brannon and Maj. C. J. Moore of Plans and Policy Staff, A-2 visited Chief, FDD this date to discuss proposed changes in the operation of the Air Force "Treasure Island" Project.

2. Col. Brannon stated that their first problem was in lifting the restriction of the 1 January 1948 date from "Treasure Island" operations. When "Treasure Island" was started Air Force had requested CIA comments and CIA had noted that there would be no duplication of any material worked on prior to 1 January 1948. Now, they feel that material prior to that date is becoming rather old and a good deal of that material has been exhausted. They would like to go into current materials -- primarily Soviet.

3. I pointed out to Col. Brannon that for the "Treasure Island" Project to do current Soviet newspapers and periodicals would be sheer duplication of work done by FDD; however, there remained a good deal of work to be done on Russian books and that there would be little duplication if the "Treasure Island" Project were to work on current books. Col. Brannon, however, feels that the "Treasure Island" Project may, despite duplication with work being done by FDD, work on current press and periodicals with the aim of extracting purely and specific target information and, of course, coincidental withdrawing Air Force requirements from FDD. I indicated that from an overall intelligence efficiency standpoint I could not agree with him.

4. He proposes to study the problem and give his recommendations to General Ackerman who will then probably discuss it with the Assistant Director for Operations.

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J. J. BAGNALL

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File

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON

AFOIR-CO-6

3 November 1948

COPY

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Project Treasure Island

1. The comments in your memorandum, dated 12 October 1948, subject as above, have formed the basis for a complete overhauling on the Treasure Island Project.

2. Supplemented by discussions with your representatives, these comments have pointed out the advisability of basing the extracting effort on the needs of the Air Intelligence Division to meet the deadlines set for the completion of the air objective folder and bombing encyclopedia programs, taking into account the existing and past efforts made in the field of Slavic publications, particularly the work of the Foreign Documents Branch since August 1947.

3. Accordingly, it is intended to use the Treasure Island Project as an auxiliary service for the Air Intelligence Division and to concentrate on those gaps in the exploitation coverage of Russian and Ukrainian publications now existent. The project will be set up with a minimum number of personnel consistent with its limited mission and the Library of Congress will be requested to coordinate its procurement of translators with other agencies concerned. The results of this extracting effort will, of course, be made available to the other intelligence agencies.

4. As a corollary, discussion with your representatives has also disclosed the need for a restatement of our requirements in the Slavic field for use by the Foreign Documents and Foreign Broadcast Information Branches. These will be furnished in a subsequent memorandum.

5. Your comments on this project are appreciated in that they have served as excellent guidance material to shape the program properly.

COPY

/s/ C. P. Cabell  
C. P. CABELL  
Major General, USAF  
Director of Intelligence, Office  
of Deputy Chief of Staff,  
Operations

CC  
11/16

**MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Intelligence**  
**Headquarters, United States Air Force**

**SUBJECT: Project Treasure Island**

1. Your memorandum, same subject, dated 3 November 1948, indicating certain revisions in the Treasure Island plan was of interest to this agency. If a more detailed outline of the revised project is prepared for the Air Intelligence Division, we should appreciate a copy of it, in order to avoid unnecessary duplication in exploitation and coverage of Russian publications.

2. The recent discussions on the above subject between our respective representatives are thought to have been most useful, and it is suggested that they be continued as the need arises.

3. It is hoped that, after formal restatement of your requirements, the Foreign Documents Branch and the Foreign Broadcast Information Branch will be able to provide more relevant and usable information in this field. It must be pointed out, however, that they are prevented by severe personnel and budgetary limitations from offering either an extensive or a specialized service in connection with any one departmental project.

LAD:bac

Distribution

cc: Signer's Copy

Central Records

OO Please return to 2 A 116, Yards & Docks

FDB

Executive for A & M

6 October 1948

Assistant Director for Operations

1. Attached hereto are:

(a) Draft of proposed reply to Gen. Cabell's memo of 20 Sept. to the DCI, prepared by this Office.

(b) Memo from OO to DCI setting forth comments on "Treasure Island".

(c) Original memo from Gen. Cabell to DCI.

(d) Brief of "Treasure Island" Project.

2. Regardless of the final form of the Director's reply to Gen. Cabell, it is recommended that item 1, (b) above be included as a tab as it is believed that the comments therein will be helpful to the Air Force in reaching a decision.

The day before the Director's office received OO's memo, the Director received a letter (ER 020-17)\*~~from the Director of Intelligence, USAF (Confidential)~~ giving a statement of Air Force requirements. Hence, our memo received the following notation from the Executive for A&M: "Believe no reply is necessary. Route (letter from Air Force) through OCD to Central \* Records for file.\* Air Force letter was dated 15 Nov 48.

This is the information I received from  today - 18 Mar 49.

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*Are these the same letter? <sup>mek</sup> ~~LA~~*